

Information for Responsible Fisheries: Libraries as Mediators.

This year the **31st Annual Conference** of the International Association of Marine and Aquatic Science Libraries and Information Centres (**IAMSLIC**) will be held in cooperation with the [Fisheries Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#) in Rome (Italy).

The Conference will discuss the information required in support of responsible fisheries - a subject area which:

- is broad and multi-disciplinary;
- has depth in terms of time and perspective;
- encompasses various scales from local to global and;
- originates in a complex mix of sources.

Sessions will cover the creation, use, and understanding of innovative information management techniques and technology, both existing and emerging, which facilitate easy and equitable access for target audiences. The challenge of managing and disseminating information produced by their own institution balanced with providing access to information across disciplines from global sources is faced by all libraries.

IAMSLIC recognizes the importance of shared standards and methodologies, especially as more members initiate digitization projects and linkages to digital resources. **IAMSLIC** offers an opportunity, through partnerships and collaboration, to promote standards for digital projects and to support a digital framework to improve access to aquatic science information.

The Conference will explore the role of libraries as mediators in providing access to the complexity of information required and the opportunities and challenges for securing access over the long term. Navigating the issues of Open Access and the intricacies of Open Archives requires new skills as well as stronger collaboration between libraries.

The membership of **IAMSLIC** is international, with a balanced representation from developed and developing countries in all regions. Facilitating the sharing of information resources and expertise is one of the important contributions of **IAMSLIC** towards bridging information inequalities and providing speedy access to a broader information base.